

came later. Since food dominates this event, it is now called the "Food Fair." This event also gives recognition to persons who have contributed to the advancement of Carnival. From as far back as 1987 persons have been singled out starting with Horatio Millin Sr., a noted farmer and fair participant. The Fair was conducted on Tuesdays, then moved to Carnival Thursday. In 1996, the fair was moved to Wednesday to avoid conflict with J'ouvert, which is held on early Thursday morning of Carnival Week.

The first Virgin Islander to win an international Calypso competition was Calypso Bombshell, (Beryl Hill) in 1954 against Caribbean renowned artists such as Zebra, Duke of Iron, and Lord Melody. The only locals to hold that distinction since are Lord Blakie (Kenneth Blake), 1979 and Mighty Potter (Cecil Potter), 1980. The local calypso competition was conducted sporadically in the 1960's at the then Center Theater and later CAHS Auditorium. Names such as Lord Blakie, Mighty Bird, and Lord Sausage dominated that period. It was institutionalized in 1973, the first sovereigns being Mighty Lark and Ferrari. The current sovereign is St. Clair "Whadablee" DaSilva. The competition was renamed the Virgin Islands Calypso Competition about the mid 1980s and several calypsonians from St. Croix have won or were runners-up in the finals since their involvement. In the mid 1970s local Calypso tents were organized to select through the process of elimination, a field of 10 finalists for the local calypso competition. Today, almost 100 contenders perform in several tents hoping to be among the finalists and sovereign who holds the distinction of musical hero of Carnival. The oldest active Calypso Tent is the "Sanctum of Wisdom and Fun."

The inspirational mono of 1952, now called the Carnival theme, was "Roast-a-time & Bamboushay." Carnival themes were institutionalized in the 1970s. "Unity in '73" is the earliest recorded since '52.

Since 1952, the Gypsy Troupe, founded by the late Gertrude Lockhart Dudley Melchoir, and others, as well as the Traditional Indians have participated in every Carnival parade. I salute the organizers and members of these two long-standing organizations and thank them for keeping their tradition going for 50 years.

One event that has remained popular from its inception is Brass-O-Rama, now renamed, "Band-O-Rama" to include bands that do not have brass instruments. Formally a part of Carnival since 1980, Mandingo Brass was the first winner. This event started utilizing local bands but has expanded to involve bands from around the region. What used to be called Warm Up Morning when the Carnival was revived in 1952 was reintroduced as J'ouvert on Carnival Friday, 1973. The early risers would be adorned as in masquerade fashion, cross-dressing and sleepwear. Then they take to the streets reveling from 4:00 AM until it's time for the Children's Parade. Because the bands would be engaged earlier, then subsequently ready themselves to participate in J'ouvert, they would be tired to continue on in the Children's Parade. Thus, that parade suffered from a lack of live music, J'ouvert was eventually moved to Thursdays in 1996 to ensure live music for the children.

The full week of international Calypso Tents was reduced to two nights and the World Calypso King was dropped in 1986. In recent

years, Calypsonians from across the region can be enjoyed rather than just performers from Trinidad. Cultural Night is a free event night that goes back to the 1960's where a variety of Quadrille groups backed up by the fungi bands performed the seven figures of flat German Quadrille and other European dances such as Lancers, Seven Step, Two-step Mazurka, Skottiche and more.

Names such as Magnus "Mongo" Niles, Lucille Roberts and Moses Baptiste can still be heard rolling off the cultural memory scrolls. Today Cultural Night also features Bamboula Dancers, Quelbe, Merengue and the highlight is the King and Queen of the Band competition in Junior and Adult categories. On this night, the first glimpse of the troupe's most elaborate male and female costumes are on grand exhibition. The most recorded winners by any adult entry is William "Champagne" Chandler (King) and Arah Lockhart (Queen) and Alrid Lockhart, Jr. (Jr. King) and Ambi Lockhart (Junior Queen) in the children's category.

In 1977, our Carnival was graced with the presence of the late Esther Rolle of television fame for her role as a strong willed but sweet mother in the sitcom "Good Times."

In 1986, in response to Irving "Brownie" Brown's call, this author started the Quelbe Tramp. It features persons playing acoustical instruments such as guitar, ukulele, guiro, triangle, "donkey" pipe, tambourines, maracas, bottles, cans, and anything that can make rhythmic noise. Those who are not playing an instrument, sing as they tramp up Main Street. This tramp brings out from senior citizens to toddlers in strollers, spanning as many as five generations, dancing from Market Square to Carnival Village. It has been conducted on Carnival Wednesdays past but now starts around 8 p.m. on Carnival Tuesday following the Pre-Teen Tramp. On occasion, steel bands have added a level of grandeur to the Tramp.

In 1989, the Carnival Committee opened its first office after years of Operating from trunks of cars of the various Chairpersons, or from the workstations of the Chairperson of a given tenure. Today, an Executive Director with an Administrative Officer who coordinates and facilitates the efforts of the 29 Committees and activity centers of Carnival mans the office. The Virgin Islands Carnival Office is located on Kronprindsens Gade in the heart of downtown Charlotte Amalie. Since the establishment of this office, it has become the authority on revising operating procedures throughout the Caribbean. On any given day, a number of phone calls would be made to this office from other Caribbean committees seeking ways to improve the way they function.

The Virgin Islands Carnival's greatest impact was realized when the sequel to the movie "Weekend At Bernie's" was scheduled to be filmed entirely in the Virgin Islands and they wanted a Carnival scene. The Carnival parade scene which lasted over five minutes of the final scene, was a spirited climax of the movie titled "Weekend at Bernie's II."

Fifty years later, Carnival is still the single largest display of all aspects of Virgin Islands culture. This Golden Jubilee is a celebration of our struggles and triumphs as a people, and a sign that there is much more pageantry, creativity, camaraderie and tradition to be seen and to share with the rest of the world. May God bless the Virgin Islands of the United

States of America, our Nation and us all. Happy 50th Carnival Anniversary!

A TRIBUTE TO MAS AND MARCIA HASHIMOTO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the contributions made by two longtime community leaders. Mas and Marcia Hashimoto have been working tirelessly for years to educate our local communities about the World War II incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans.

Mas and Marcia created the idea of "Liberty Lost . . . Lessons in Loyalty", a re-enactment of the incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans and inspired in the larger community a call to action to commemorate an event of enormous historical significance to the Pajaro Valley and the United States. "Liberty Lost . . . Lessons in Loyalty" honors those incarcerated as well as those who, in single acts of kindness and compassion bravely and generously supported the internees. It also has captured the courageous stories and memories of Japanese and Japanese Americans incarcerated during WWII in a series of invaluable oral history recordings that will forever be treasured. "Liberty Lost . . . Lessons in Loyalty" educates the entire community about the dangers of wartime hysteria and racism and serves as a forum from which new cross cultural understanding of alliances may be formed.

Mas and Marcia are recognized community leaders and have each served as the president of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL and where, in their capacity as leaders, they have encouraged, motivated, and inspired all with which they have worked. Mas and Marcia Hashimoto have greatly contributed to the strength and vitality of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, the Japanese American community, and to the Pajaro Valley. As a team, Mas and Marcia have shared their lives, their warmth and enthusiasm, and their energy and passion in creating "Liberty Lost . . . Lessons in Loyalty." Their work, and this project, shall be forever cherished for all to remember.

IN SUPPORT OF THE LIFE INSURANCE EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Life Insurance Employee Notification Act or the LIEN Act for short.

As a strong supporter of the American worker, I am here on the floor introducing legislation to stop American companies from profiting in the deaths of their employees.

A recent article in the Houston Chronicle brought to my attention a business practice involving employers purchasing secret life insurance policies on their employees without their knowledge or consent.